

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 An apparatus and methods facilitate collection of print job status information. A first
4 method configures a computer to obtain status information for subsequent print jobs to a
5 printer. The first method supplies a proxy printer driver in place of an actual printer driver
6 associated with the printer. The first method may hook a function in the actual printer driver.
7 The first method may also configure the computer to spool RAW datatype to the printer. The
8 first method may also store a unique identifier of the computer in the registry. The first
9 method may also set a flag within the registry so as to indicate that the computer is able to
10 provide status for print jobs on the printer. A second method gathers print status for a print
11 job from a computer to a printer. The second method executes a proxy printer driver while
12 producing the print job, wherein the proxy printer driver is a proxy for an actual printer
13 driver. The second method inserts into the print job a unique identifier of the print job. The
14 second method also queries at least one of a spooler and the printer regarding status of the
15 print job. Optionally, the second method may detect inception of the print job and produce a
16 notification of the status of the print job. In executing the proxy printer driver, the second
17 method preferably receives a call to a function and calls a corresponding function in the
18 actual printer driver. In some embodiments, the proxy printer driver produces RAW data.
19 The apparatus is a computer readable medium on which is embedded a computer program.
20 The program comprises a proxy printer driver translation part, the proxy printer driver
21 translation part being a proxy for an actual printer driver translation part. Optionally, the
22 program comprises one or more of a status configuration utility, a status monitor, a spooler
23 comprising a port monitor, a graphic device interface, a registry, the actual printer driver
24 translation part and an application.